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Gandhi

Mohandas K. Gandhi was shot to death on Friday, January 30th, 1948, while on his way to Prayer, in the garden of a home where he lived. It is alleged that a Hindu anti-peace fanatic was the assassin. This little poem is humbly offered as a tribute to his memory.

Murder is armed
For an encounter,
And peace no longer dwells
With those who saunter
Into the sunshine, or the shade
Of garden walks —
O let us weep
For Gandhi slain,
For who is there on earth,
To count the gain
Of Gandhi dead?

Justice tears from reddened eyes
Her bandage,
For her present need,
Sees clearly, the blindness and the folly
Of this monstrous deed.

Now that The Lamb is slain,
His spirit cupped
Into The Bowl of Immortality
May Hindu and Moslem cleanse
Their hands from hatred,
Not to beat their breasts,
To weep and fast,
But stand united for the task,
Let violence cease,
That his brave spirit
May, at last,
Meditate in peace.

—RAY LEWIS.

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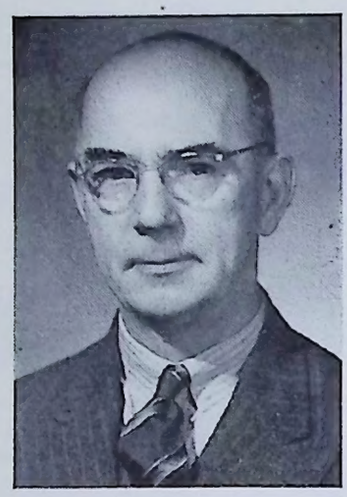
JACK LAVER PASSES



Jack Laver, manager of the Famous Players Alhambra Theatre in Toronto, passed away on Thursday, January 29th, after a lengthy illness, at the age of 57. Laver entered the industry in 1915, as assistant manager of the Garden Theatre. During his lengthy career he managed the Bedford, Belsize, Garden, Parkdale, Tivoli, York, Bloor and Alhambra Theatres, all in Toronto. He was recently inducted into the Famous Players 25-Year Club. He is survived by his widow and one daughter. Funeral services were held last Saturday afternoon.

MONTREAL PREMIERES "CITY"

The Canadian premiere of Quebec Productions' "Whispering City", was held at the Palace Theatre, Montreal, at midnight on Wednesday, January 21st.

Starring Helmut Dantine, Mary Anderson, and Paul Lukas, "Whispering City" had its world premiere in Birmingham, Alabama, where it set a box office record. The film, produced by Quebec Productions Corporation at their St. Hyacinthe studios, included 16 Montrealers in the cast. Proceeds from the premiere will be devoted to the welfare work performed by the Quebec Provincial Command of the Canadian Legion.

ODEON CHANGES B.C. MANAGERS

Further managerial changes were made by the Odeon Circuit this week. Bob Hardy of the Fraser Theatre takes over the management of the Varsity, Vancouver, succeeding Len Dallen, who resigned to go into business for himself at Mission, B.C. Bill Wallace who was assistant manager of the Paradise moves to the Fraser as manager. Elliott Brown formerly at Trail will manage the Plaza, Victoria, temporarily, while Al Davidson of the Plaza comes over to Vancouver to inspect theatres before taking over as manager of the new Odeon deluxe house at Victoria, which will open on February 28th.

Winnipeg News

By J. J. CONKLIN

THE first showing in western Canada of three new health films was presented to invited health officials, social workers, public nurses, teachers and professionally interested persons at the Isaac Brock school auditorium. Lt. Col. C. W. Gilchrist, director of the information services division of the national health and welfare department in Ottawa, presided.

Already these films have won acclaim in Britain and the United States as well as in Canada, he said. Each one represents a technique of educational film presentation new to Canadian movie making, while the second film on the program is the first one of its kind produced anywhere, he declared.

A mental health film, titled, "The Feeling of Rejection", was originally intended for professional use in group mental therapy, but the National Film Board released it for public use when the scope of the film was fully realized.

An entirely new approach to mental health field work, the film is based on the case history of a real girl who was treated in the Allan Memorial Institute of Psychiatry in Montreal, Lt.-Col. Gilchrist said. The film traces the history and causes of the patient's problem. It is intended to be used in conjunction with literature on the subject and the running comment of trained personnel.

Based on what would be a Canadian best seller, if it wasn't available free, the film "Mother and Her Child" by Ernest Couture, technical advisor to the Canadian delegation to the interim committee of the world health organization, describes two phases of motherhood. Prenatal care is dealt with in the first half and in the latter part the first year of the baby's life is illustrated.

* * *

"Abie's Irish Rose" is in its tenth week at the Dominion Theatre where it has been showing since the middle of November. It is the most remarkable run known at a Winnipeg theatre, "Smiling Through" at the Met, and "One Night of Love" at the Garrick, being runners-up in recent years.

* * *

At a meeting of the Yorkton Film Council, Charles Pachal was appointed local representative to attend the Saskatchewan provincial film council convention which was held in Regina, Feb. 3rd.

Paul Weligan, chairman, said it was anticipated that following the convention, Yorkton, Sask., would become a distribution depot for councils in this district, with the number of films in the library increased from the present 25 to 70.

Seventeen Yorkton organizations are now members of the council and six other groups are expected to join shortly. Twnty persons are taking the course for projectionists.

Artur Rubenstein, the world renowned concert pianist and composer, while in Winnipeg recently, talked freely of his experiences in moving pictures and at studios. He has appeared in five Hollywood movies but he isn't enthusiastic about the medium.

"It is not an art", he said. "They call it the movie industry". I told them, "When you change it to movie art it will be a different thing.

"Hollywood is so cowardly", he continued. "They have respect for only one type of man. Generally they tell you that you have to please an Arizona cowboy. People must be told that they are going to see art, and they will respect it".

He said the British film, "Henry V", was advertised as art and people received it as art.

When they wanted him to put some music in a film, "Song of Love", which was inappropriate and he refused, they told him that the girls of Pamona College hadn't liked the other selections. That was the reason for the change.

"The little girls were fools", he told the movie management and stuck to his decision not to make the change.

* * *

The federal government Department of National Defence has decided to make the two large military camps in Manitoba, Shilo, south of Carberry, and Rivers, 95 miles northwest of Winnipeg, incorporated towns, and to build in each one, large theatres, to cater to the enlarged population expected to be located in the two new centres. These theatres will bring added business to film exchanges in Winnipeg.

* * *

The Manitoba Censor Board has rejected, for Winnipeg showing, "The Gangsters" starring Belita, a skating star performing here this week in the ice club's winter carnival. It was learned the Garrick Theatre, which planned to show the movie this week to coincide with Belita's visit, has been informed the picture has been "condemned" by the Censor Board. The board's action is being appealed.

Personal appearances by Belita on the Garrick stage in conjunction with the picture have been cancelled as a result of the Censor Board's rejection of "The Gangsters".

Reasons for the Censor Board's decision have not been made public. The board follows the practice of rejecting movies which it believes to be harmful to public interest.

* * *

The film story of Russian espionage in Canada, "The Iron Curtain", will be treated merely as a spy yarn and won't deal with international relations. This information comes from the set of the picture which is being rushed to hit the screens as early as April.

RAY PRESENTS

AS a general rule, poetry is restricted to the Christmas Holiday Issue of The Digest. This has not always been the policy of The Digest's editor, for the impulse to become poetical is not an infrequent urge, it belongs to a poetical past which like Banquo's Ghost will not down. Our editorial this week presents a tribute to the memory of Mohandas K. Gandhi, India's Man of Peace, who was shot to death on January 30th.

It is not a Moving Picture story, but a moving story. Gandhi was seventy-eight years old, a frail, peace-loving old man, who has endured long years of imprisonment, slander, prolonged fasts to accomplish Freedom for India and to attain within his own country, at least, tolerance, understanding, equality between the different castes and different religious sects. Gandhi's ideology was the pacifistic code of human behavior. He believed in "turning the other cheek". Some of us may have deemed his conduct queer, some Anti-British, but millions in India revered him as a Saint; and while this cynical age has tossed away a belief in Saints, either living, or dead, nevertheless, millions of rational people, in India, believe that Gandhi was the reincarnation of a Great Teacher, a Great Saint.

THAT he gave up his mortal life because of bullet-wounds, does not disprove the possibilities of his sainthood. We, who have studied the lives of The Saints, of good men and women who served humanity, know how many of these died at the hand of Man, and, also, know, that those who so died were not characters of fiction, for we have the date of their respective births and of their deaths.

Having brought to India his idea for a free India, it is not comforting to Man, to live to see Gandhi betrayed. If, as alleged, a Hindu killed Gandhi, this man knows that he will not escape the Karma of this act of his. Reaping in the Eternal Sowing, he will reap what he has sown and his own death will not wipe away the blood which he has spilled.

Not all men die through violence of gun, sword, and all the other weapons, ways and means, through which life can be destroyed. Many give up the ghost through malicious attacks, through heartbreak, through a feeling of defeat. I am here reminded of a story which John J. Fitzgibbons told of a man, who had committed a sin against his fellow-man, and who was advised by his padre, who refused to give him forgiveness, until he had emptied a sack of feathers in an open field, and gathered up every feather, so emptied from this sack, placing everyone of them into the sack again.

John used this story to illustrate a point which he made in connection with spreading malicious slander, for such spreading cannot be gathered up again, despite the earnest desire of the slanderer to undo the wrong which he has done.

THIS generation of ours has seen a great deal of killing, has heard a great deal of slander. Nothing worse can happen to us, to our civilization, than the growing indifference, within ourselves, to what happens to the other fellow, be that other fellow white, yellow, or black.

If we are not moved, emotionally and spiritually shocked, at the news of Gandhi's death, this is a definite indication that we are atrophied and literally belong to the Stone Age.

You and I have read of people who risked lives to rescue a dog; we have read of the fire-brigade, the police turning out to rescue a cat which had fallen between two high walls. This impulse to save, even an animal's life, to save it from suffering, is a natural impulse in humans, and from this impulse springs all that is contained in the best which motivates human relations. It is not an example of being hysterical, emotionally unsound, unreasonable, fanatical, it is an example which reveals the very Essence of Human Goodness.

Gandhi is dead, and neither Moslem, nor Hindu is responsible for the sin of his death, all of India is responsible, and back of India the responsibility lies with those who provoke violence, those who play Strategy, Diplomacy, Greed for anyone's undoing, be it one human being, a nation, or several nations which are the victims of such cunning planning.

EAGLE-LION of Canada was host to James Mason, Pamela Kellino (Mrs. Mason) at a cocktail party, in Vanity Fair, King Edward Hotel, last Wednesday. Whoever was responsible for the arrangements, certainly hit upon a happy idea; the guests, instead of lining up to meet Mr. and Mrs. Mason, were seated at individual tables, to which came the guests of honor, who stayed long enough at each table to really become acquainted.

As a general rule film stars look better on the screen than off, but this is not the story, as it refers to Mr. and Mrs. James Mason, both of whom are much better-looking off the screen, than on.

James Mason is much more youthful than his screen characters reveal him to be, much more handsome, and far more friendly than his press agent's stories. Pamela Kellino is a vivacious red-head, vibrant, positive, and reveals that she definitely uses her head and knows where she is going.

INCIDENTALLY her recent book, Del Palma, will be adapted for screen production. On sale at Eaton's where the authoress autographed book-sales, both authoress and her husband, were in danger of being mobbed, for thousands crowded around the film-stars, if only to catch a glimpse of them. The popularity of film-stars gave the manager of the book department and the executives of the largest department-store in Canada, an opportunity to test out the drawing power of film-stars. They were as startled as they looked, at the oncoming surge of people, who at any moment threatened to become unmanageable.

James Mason and Pamela Kellino are in the J. Arthur Rank production, "The Upturned Glass", currently playing at the Fairlawn, Toronto.

The story of "The Upturned Glass", which stars James Mason was written by his wife, Pamela, who acknowledges that she received the idea for the story from John P. Monaghan, the latter, who is Mason's manager, and who plays a small part in the picture.

MEANWHILE, the trial, involving a suit by James Mason against his former partner, David Rose, is up for hearing in New York federal court. The action involves a joint producing agreement between the parties, whereby Mason was to be starred in a number of pictures jointly produced. Mason alleges that Rose breached a memorandum understanding, when he negotiated Mason's services in a deal with Paramount. Mason wishes the agreement nullified, since, in its original form Mason and Rose were to organize their own American producing company.

(*Continued on Page* 8)

Toronto and District

By BILL PRESS

THE latest report on John Grierson, former peppery film commissioner of the National Film Board, is that he has accepted an invitation to join a documentary film organization in the United Kingdom, where he made his start after marine service in the First World War.

Following his resignation from Canada's board, Grierson announced plans for an independent film-producing enterprise with offices in New York, London and Ottawa, but little was heard of the project apart from the making of a film which traced the growth of a flower. Next he was appointed to a position at the headquarters in Europe of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, but he was barred from the United States for an unstated reason when he made application for entry from Paris. As a British subject, Grierson is at liberty to return to England.

* * *

Leslie H. Kemp of London, England, Odeon staff architect, was loaned to the Canadian circuit on a six-months' basis following the tragic death last August of Jay I. English in a drowning accident. Kemp has brought his family to Canada and it is understood that, because of construction vexities, he may remain here indefinitely.

* * *

Tying in with the opening of the R-K-O picture "Crossfire" at the Capitol Theatre, Chatham, Marvin Fremes, assistant manager, arranged for an essay contest on "The Evils of Intolerance" aimed at the high school students. Local merchants donated prizes and the theatre gave passes to the contestants. Winning entry was published in the Chatham Daily News.

* * *

Members of the Toronto film industry gathered to honor Paul Henry who was recently married to Alfreda Geldsaler, lovely and talented daughter of Ben Geldsaler of Famous Players head office.

* * *

"Damaged Goods" was brought back as the main feature of a double bill at the Savoy Theatre, Hamilton, and there was no advance in prices. The added feature was "Philo Vance's Secret Mission". A run of three weeks was enjoyed by "Mother Wore Tights" at the Century Theatre, Hamilton, where newsreel pictures of the Hamilton vs. Vancouver junior football playoff in the Pacific Coast city, New Year's Day, were also played up.

* * *

R. W. Bolstad, vice-president of Famous Players, is not yet qualified for membership in the 25-Year Club but he recently celebrated another 25th anniversary, that of his marriage.

Audio Pictures Limited will not undertake the production of features on its own account at the new studio at Humber Bay, it is pointed out, but the modern facilities will be available to Hollywood or other producers who will want to make big pictures in Canada. Audio will continue to turn out special short subjects.

* * *

Dave Gordon, supervisor of Biltmore Theatres, Toronto is the latest to be on the hospital list but it's not serious.

* * *

Art Cauley, manager of the Capitol Theatre, Peterboro, was accorded a big boost, plus a two-column heading, in the Peterboro Examiner after he had been inducted as a member of Famous Players' 25-Year Club. The nice tribute included the story of his life from birth in Chicago in 1893. Cauley probably drew more publicity than any other newcomer to the club, in his home city where it really counts.

* * *

After its engagement at the Royal Alexandra in Toronto, the Donald Wolfit stage company played one night at the Capitol Theatre, Brantford, and two nights with a matinee at the Palace in Hamilton.

* * *

The circus has been the theme for a juvenile program at a theatre in Brantford. The Famous Players Club at the Brant had a "Circus Day" on a recent Saturday morning when the short subjects all dealt with some phase of the Big Top. The Esquire Theatre, Brantford, worked up the Western angle with the distribution of photos of Roy Rogers and the playing of a Screen Snapshots short, "Hollywood Cowboys", which showed the leading horse-opera stars.

* * *

Manager Ken Johnston has started a Saturday morning movie club at the new Odeon Theatre in Guelph after getting the early details of the house straightened out. For the Famous Players' Movie Club at the Algoma, Sault Ste. Marie, a bicycle has been offered as an attendance prize which is scheduled to be awarded April 3rd.

* * *

The latest revision of the Canadian economy regulations has brought the removal of the 25 per cent excise tax on air-conditioning and oil-heating equipment and the withdrawal has been made retroactive to Nov. 18th, the date of the austerity order. Those who have made purchases since that time can get the money back.

* * *

Four films, "I Walk Alone", "The Flame", "Upturned Glass", "Nightmare Alley" were classified as "Adult Entertainment" by the Ontario Board of Censors during the month of December

The Canadian Moving Picture Digest

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The youngest member of the Famous Players' 25-Year Club is F. G. "Ted" Doney, a manager at Guelph, Ont., who was one of this year's club candidates. A former manager at St. Thomas and London, Ted was one of the first officers to enlist in 1939 for Overseas service with the Canadian Army. After the war he became manager of the Capitol Theatre, Halifax, but eventually came back to Ontario. He entered the employ of Famous Players as an usher at the Parkdale Theatre, Toronto, when he was 14 years of age. With a quarter of a century to his credit with the circuit, that makes his age 39 years or thereabouts.

* * *

An enthusiastic audience witnessed the private showing of "Water Safety", a short dealing with aquatic sports, in the screening room of Associated Screen News in Toronto with J. J. Chisholm as host for the party. The film is sponsored by the Red Cross and is expected to have wide distribution in Canada as well as other countries. Among those who looked after arrangements for the preview was Mrs. James R. Nairn.

* * *

The question of priority for bookings in connection with camp theatres, a sore spot for many exhibitors during the war, has been revived with the establishment by the Canadian government of military towns adjacent to Camp Borden, Sarcee, Man., and Petawaw, Ont. A community feature in each case is a theatre for the soldiers and their families.

* * *

The Kino Theatre, under the new management of Paul Maynard of Maynard Films, played "Duel In The Sun" at advanced prices for one week. Picture previously played three weeks at Loew's Theatre, also at upped admissions.

* * *

Manager C T. Spencer of the 2200-seat Capitol Theatre, Hamilton, states "Green Dolphin Street" set a new record for a single day's business since the house opened in 1916. The previous record was held by "This Time For Keeps" which played two weeks previously. Both are M-G-M pictures.

$1,000,000 Net Profit Foreseen By U-A Directors In Coming Year

At a meeting of the board of directors held in New York, Tuesday, January 27th, Gradwell Sears, president; Arthur W. Kelly, executive vice-president and George Bagnall, vice-president in charge of production, announced a considerable lightening of the heavy problems that have been facing United Artists Corporation for several months.

Mr. Sears announced, first, that the dispute with Cagney Productions will soon be solved and that U-A would handle the distribution of James Cagney's "Time Of Your Life"; secondly, that a distribution deal had been completed with Mike Todd, Broadway producer for Todd's production of "Busman's Holiday" the hilarious story of the bus-driver who "became tired of it all" and drove his vehicle to Florida, for a vacation. Thirdly, Sears announced, the easing of product difficulties with word from the Hunt Stromberg unit that Hunt Stromberg Productions would start shooting the Saturday Evening Post mystery story, "Too Late For Tears" around March 1st.

From Arthur Kelly, exec.-veepee, just returned from England, came word that the British Government had okayed the plan for United Artists to make 35 films in England in seven years, and that the necessary capital would be put up by British interests. Kelly described in detail the relationship between U-A and the Odeon Gaumont-British circuits and the new pooling arrangements between the two J. Arthur Rank controlled chains. He also reported that he had completed arrangements with Gaumont-British to play the remaining U-A product in England which was imported before the 75% tax went into effect.

George Bagnall, veepee in charge of production, announced that new bank financing would allow U-A producers to go through with their shooting schedules without having to worry about backers. Five banks are now ready to furnish production coin: The Bank Of America and The Security Trust & Savings Bank in Los Angeles and The Bank of Manhattan, The Continental and The Irving Trust Banks in the East would underwrite future production plans.

Following the report to the board of directors, unofficial statisticians close to the company report that 1948 may well be United Artists most profitable twelve-month period in years. With such anticipated heavy grossers as "Body And Soul", "Sleep, My Love", "Arch Of Triumph" and "A Miracle Can Happen" the boys that 'make with the pencils' estimate—conservatively—the company should show an income, over costs, of $1,000,000 or more, in domestic operations in 1948.

GEORGE STROUD DIES

George Stroud, recently retired manager of the Palace Theatre, Hamilton, passed away in the early morning hours on February 3rd, after a brief illness. He was 69 years of age and a member of the Canadian Picture Pioneers. A complete biography of this Pioneer showman was published in the "Ray Presents" column of the Digest in the January 17th issue.

Funeral services were held from the Blatchford and Wray Funeral Home, Hamilton, on Friday, January 6th.

Royal Tour Films Bought For Distribution By IODE

The Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire has purchased 34 two-reel basic prints of the British Film "The Royal Tour in South Africa" from the National Film Board, Ottawa.

The prints of this film will go out on the National Film Board's rural circuits across Canada with the regular films of educational and general interest which are shown once a month to people in the outlying and more isolated areas of the Dominion.

It is estimated that approximately 250,000 people will see the pictures of the Royal Family's visit and the beautiful scenes of South Africa.

In purchasing this film the I.O.D.E. is making a contribution to the entertainment of fellow Canadians, as well as creating a greater interest in the Commonwealth and Empire.

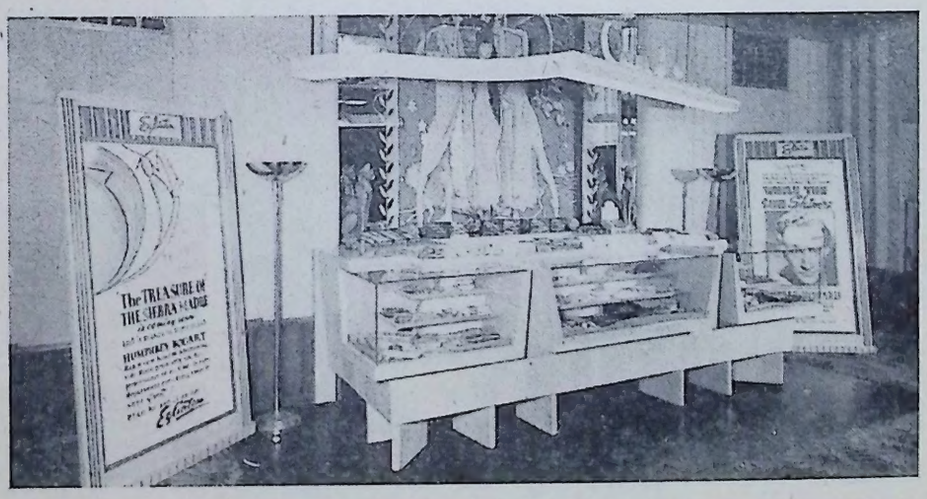
As a further public service, after the film has been returned from the circuits the prints will be donated by the Order to Community Film Libraries across the Dominion.

NFB Policy Explained In McLean Broadcast

Chief purpose of the National Film Board "is to help Canadians in all parts of Canada to understand the ways of living and the problems of Canadians in other parts", said Government Film Commissioner Ross McLean in a broadcast over Ottawa station CKCO recently. Mr. McLean's talk was one of a series arranged by the Professional Institute on government departments.

The Commissioner spoke of the contributions of NFB personnel to Ottawa life. NFB musicmen Jack Kash and Lou Applebaum, he declared, had worked closely with Dr. Allard de Ridder to found and promote the Ottawa Philharmonic Orchestra. He mentioned Kash's founding the now-famous Kash Concerts for children which teed off with 200 in the audience last year and opened this season with an enthusiastic 1,000 kiddies attending. The Commissioner also mentioned various NFB people who work with community groups including the Drama League, the RA (Ottawa Civil Service Recreation Association), camera clubs, National Film Society and art groups. NFB people are associated with the National Capital Planning Committee.

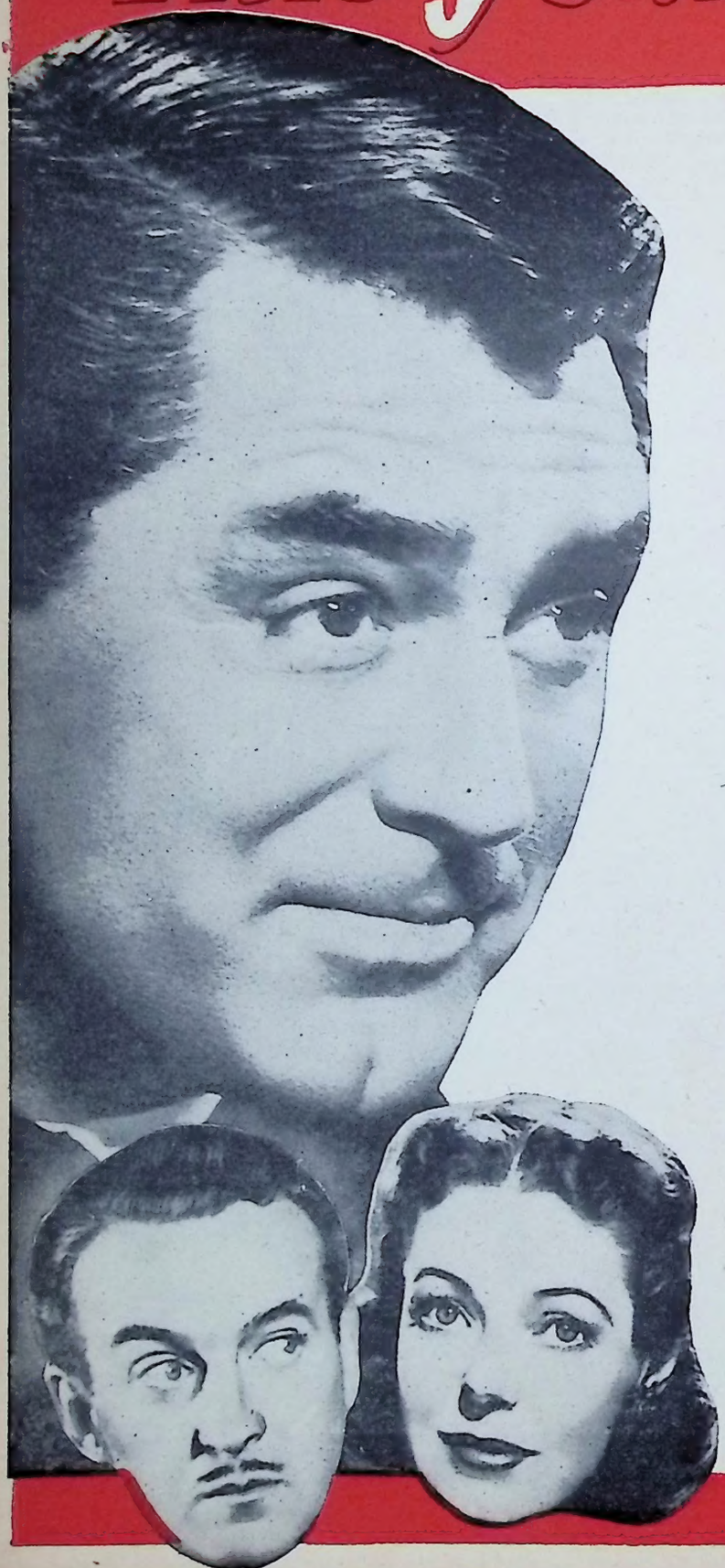
Upcoming NFB productions Mr. McLean spoke of included films for the United Nations Film Board: "The Maps We Live By", "Common Concern" (on FAO), "ILO" on the International Labor Organization. "Hungry Minds" on UNESCO. Nearing completion are "Saguenay" and "The Double Heritage" on the Lake St. John area and the Eastern Townships in Quebec, and a longer film on the building of Canada's French tradition. Released this month will be "Eyes On Canada", a Canada Carries On release about the influences that determine Canada's external policy and the way the Dominion shares with others the work of the United Nations organization.



Considered the finest candy bar of its kind, the Eglinton's newest piece of furniture has been attracting favorable comment from both patrons and film industry heads. Made especially for the theatre the candy bar is located in the foyer in front of the mantle piece. It is made of quartered limed oak and has a natural finish. According to Marc Hirsch, Eglinton manager, candy sales have been very gratifying to date.

Last year it was

This year it's "THE



DAILY VARIETY

HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

FILM DAILY

MOTION PICTURE HERALD

HOLLYWOOD REVIEW

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

INDEPENDENT FILM JOURNAL

"The Best Years"

BISHOP'S WIFE"

"A sharp bead on the next Oscar for sure. Cary Grant in the very finest of his many fine screen characterizations."

"Superbly treated entertainment. Surefire boxoffice. The good taste and artistic scope of the film is a tribute to the directorial guidance of Henry Koster."

"Royal entertainment expertly fashioned into boxoffice fare. In England, the Command Performance picture. On this side of the Atlantic, the Demand Performance film."

"In the best tradition of the screen's prime purpose. In 'The Bishop's Wife' exhibitors have a highly exploitable picture of which they may be proud."

"An outstanding entry in fine entertainment. One of the outstanding moneymakers of the year. Excellent. The screenplay of Robert Nathan's very popular novel was written by Robert Sherwood and Leonardo Bercovici, and to that credit must go the applause for much of the charm and story presentation."

"The seal of Samuel Goldwyn, without variance a warranty of merit. Perhaps there has never been anything to excel it. A happy idea blossoming into a happy picture."

"Builds up an overall pattern of beauty and significance. The net effect is a moving, substantial and constantly entertaining film."

DISTRIBUTED BY RKO RADIO PICTURES

Prairie News

By BRUCE PEACOCK

"BRUTE FORCE", the Empire-Universal picture, depicting life in an American penitentiary, has been banned in Saskatchewan on the grounds that it would have a demoralizing effect on the public — especially upon young people — and that it was too morbid.

The movie was originally banned by D. J. Vaughan, film censor, but it was appealed by Universal Studios. Later, an appeal board of five, including the warden of Regina jail, reviewed the film and upheld the ban.

Comment from one member of the board was: "This film . . . is the most depressing, sadistic attempt at depicting a false impression of prison life. It has no value whatever — educationally, morally or otherwise. It would be 'criminal' to present it to the public, especially our 'teen-age' population".

* * *

Royal American Shows has been signed again for the Western Canadian Class "A" fair circuit. Rumors are that RAS will have fan dancer Sally Rand and the singing quartette, The Ink Spots, on its midway this year.

* * *

When fire destroyed the projection booth of the Legion Theatre at Bienfait, Sask., on the night of Jan. 24th, patrons left the building in an orderly manner and no one was injured. The theatre accommodates 400 persons and was about half filled by a weekend crowd when the fire occurred.

Loss was estimated at $8,000, chiefly projection equipment. There was partial insurance.

The Bienfait fire department confined the flames to the projection room and meeting rooms in the back upstairs portion of the theatre, which is used by the Canadian Legion branch.

The theatre has two projectionists, Gordon Carr and Wing Wong. Neither of them was injured.

Cause of the blaze was not divulged.

First building report of the new year in Regina was issued to the Capitol Theatre for $2,000 in alterations to the projection room. Room will be widened about six feet, doing away with 11 seats in the balcony. Added space will provide a re-wind room and a storage room. The work, being done at night, is now under way.

Quebec & Maritimes
Quebec Cinema Booking Reg'd.
754 Sherbrooke St. W.
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Western Canada
FOTO-NITE
DISTRIBUTORS, Inc.
Room 216, 319 West Pender St.,
Vancouver, B.C.

Neat little review in the World-Spectator, Moosomin, Sask.: "The pictures of the royal wedding were voted strictly top-drawer by the local folks who saw them at the Lyric. The film made one wish a mortgage had been planted on the farm, if necessary, to have provided cash to go over and see the memorable event. The page boys, who, like other small boys have a few itching places to scratch, put life into the Technicolor shots of the royal family, which were otherwise almost too grand and beautiful to be real.

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At Shaunavon, Sask., the town council passed bylaws to boost licences paid by various businesses. Under the new rates, the theatre pays $250 *instead of* $75.

* * *

Jack Watson, owner-manager of the Rex Theatre, Regina, entertained three Famous Players officials in Regina's Hotel Saskatchewan recently at a reception attended by business and professional men of the city. Attending were R. W. Bolstad, vice-president and comptroller; Larry Bearg, western divisional manager; James Nairn, advertising manager, all of Toronto. In an interview, Mr. Bolstad said televised newsreels were definitely a prospect for the future in Canadian theatres.

* * *

Arnold Bercovich, of the Broadway, Regina, is engaged to Miss Sheila Lutsky, of Edmonton.

* * *

Prices have been increased at Regina theatres as follows: Capitol, evening admission boosted five cents to 55 cents; Metropolitan, boosted to 55 cents in line with a new policy of better calibre pictures; Rex and Broadway advanced from 45 to 48 cents; evening admissions at the Grand unchanged at 40 cents but afternoon prices up 5 cents; Roxy, afternoon prices up 5 cents but evening prices unchanged at 35 cents.

At Moose Jaw, the Capitol admission was boosted to 55 cents in the evening and the Orpheum now charges 50 cents.

RAY PRESENTS

(*Continued from Page* 3)

Rose has entered a counter-claim, asking for $1,760,000 *damages. He originally entered his suit in the State of California, but was unable to serve Mason with the necessary documents there.*

The situation in respect to the 75% tax, re-import of Hollywood films into England, has not changed. Reports by Eric Johnston, president of the MPAA, to member-executives, do not reveal a very encouraging picture in connection with the British Film Market, or the European Market where currencies are frozen. Bank Loans in Britain have not responded to the 75% import tax on Hollywood films and banks have shown a reluctance to make cash available for British production, fearing a decrease in box offices in the domestic market, and a possibility of diminished revenues on British pictures abroad as a result of the tax.

Meanwhile, it looks as if productions made in the British Dominions may become exempt from the 75% import tax, since the British Government has agreed to exempt from the ad valorem tax of 75%, Arthur Rank's Australian produced pictures.

Western 25-Year Club Members Inducted By F-P In Winnipeg

Ten Famous Players employees who have completed a quarter-century of service were honored with memberships in the company's 25-Year Club at a dinner held in the Gold Room of the Royal Alexandra Hotel, Winnipeg, on January 20th.

The dinner was attended by R. W. Bolstad, Famous Players vice-president; L. I. Bearg, western division supervisor; J. R. Nairn, director of publicity and advertising; new and old members of the club and their wives and by a number of distinguished visitors.

The new members inducted were Albert Dennison, projectionist, Metropolitan Theatre, Winnipeg; Charles Dilley, manager of the Colonial Theatre, Port Arthur; Edgar P. Fields, manager of the Capitol Theatre, Moose Jaw; Edmund B. Garrow, projectionist, Capitol Theatre, Moose Jaw; John P. Garvey, projectionist, Metropolitan Theatre, Regina; Mrs. Josephine Gray, matron, Capitol Theatre, Winnipeg; Harold L. Kennedy, service staff, Metropolitan Theatre, Winnipeg; Francis A. Moran, projectionist, Metropolitan Theatre, Regina; George Parker, maintenance staff, Metropolitan Theatre, Winnipeg and Walter Wilson, manager, Capitol Theatre, Edmonton.

Mrs. Josephine Gray, the only woman member of the club in Western Canada, cut the birthday cake and Jack Fields and Walter Wilson, the two oldest members in the 1948 group, blew out the candles. Mr. Wilson spoke on behalf of the new members.

Mr. Bolstad read a letter from J. J. Fitzgibbons, expressing appreciation of their services to the organization and his regret at being unable to attend the western dinners.

In his speech, Mr. Bolstad referred to the growth of Famous Players and outlined the many changes that had taken place in the company and in the motion picture industry since 1923 when the new 25-Year Club members joined the organization.

Principal speaker of the evening was the Hon. E. K. Williams, Chief Justice of the Court of the King's Bench for Manitoba. Other speakers were Brigadier R. Malone, assistant publisher of the Winnipeg Free Press; E. A. Zorn, Famous Players prairie regional supervisor; Father Athol Murray, Notre Dame College, Wilcox, Saskatchewan; Mayor Garnet Coulter of Winnipeg. W. P. Fillmore, K.C., proposed the toast to the ladies which was responded to by Mrs. Ben Lepkin of the Winnipeg Free Press.

Congratulary messages were read by James Nairn from the Hon. Stuart Garson, Manitoba Premier; Barney Balaban, president, Paramount Pictures; Jules Allen, Premier Operating Company; Morris Stein, F-P eastern division manager; Ben Geldsaler, chief booker for Famous Players; Charles Hayson, president, Winnipeg division of the Canadian Picture Pioneers; Frank Gow and Maynard Joiner, Vancouver; Paul Cardell and Ralph Mitcheltree, Calgary; and I. H. Allen of Astral Films.

Toastmaster was Lawrence I. Bearg, Famous Players western division manager. Arrangements for dinner and the presentations were in the hands of Harold Bishop, Winnipeg supervisor.

Guests included A. W. Moscarella, assistant publisher, Winnipeg Tribune and Mrs. Moscarella; R. D. Hurwitz, Western Theatres Ltd. and Mrs. Hurwitz; Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Riley; Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Fillmore; Mrs. E. K. Williams; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Miles; Mrs. J. Miles; Mr. and Mrs. J. A. MacCauley; Mrs. T. Chester; and Mr. and Mrs. A. Gilbert.

NORMAN ALLIN TO U.S.A.

Norman Allin, who recently resigned from Odeon Theatres, after being booker there since its inception, has moved to Ohio, where he is booker for a large mid-west theatre circuit.

Story of Sophie Tucker To Be Produced By M-G-M

Metro - Goldwyn - Mayer announce the acquisition of screen rights to "Some Of These Days", Sophie Tucker's autobiography, written by the 63-year-old stage star in collaboration with Dorothy Gibbs and published by Doubleday Doran.

The studio said that no actress had been chosen for the projected film version of the biography. The price paid for the property and the right to depict Miss Tucker on the screen is understood to be close to $200,000.

Theodore Reeves has been engaged by the studio to write the screen adaptation. Pandro S. Berman will produce the film.

Many Toronto exhibitors were guests at a cocktail party at the Vanity Fair Room of the King Edward Hotel, given by Eagle-Lion Films of Canada, in honor of James Mason and his wife, Pamela Kellino. Enjoying a friendly chat in the photo at left are Morris Stein, Jack Arthur, James Mason, Pamela Kellino and Ben Geldsaler. With backs to the camera in photo at the right are Mrs. Oscar Hanson and O. J. Silverthorne. Other guests seen with the Masons are Oscar Hanson and Ray Lewis.

Montreal News

By ROY LESTER

FOR the first time through the medium of a motion picture, the story of maternity is told in the widely publicized, full-length film "The Birth of a Baby". The picture was exhibited at His Majesty's Theatre, for one week, beginning January 26th.

The film is being sponsored in Canada by the Division of Child and Maternal Hygiene, Department of Pensions and National Health. Telling the story of the lives of three women, mother, a woman about to become a mother, and a younger girl. "The Birth of a Baby" is an important part of a campaign for health education, not only for the mothers and fathers of the nation, but for the adolescent boys and girls in our schools and homes.

* * *

A special newsreel film showing our Barbara Ann Scott winning the European Skating Championship at Prague, Czechoslovakia, arrived here by plane on Friday, January 23rd, and on the following day was included in the regular programs at the Capitol and the Imperial Theatres.

* * *

Mr. and James Mason paid the City a visit . . . Stan Kenton and his famous orchestra entertained jazz fans here on January 26th, and 27th . . . Mr. Alex Adilman left on a vacation to Miami, Florida . . . Shipstads and Johnson's "Ice Follies" due here on the 8th of February . . . The Van Horne, the theatre that opened its doors to the public last week has chosen as its second programme "Waterloo Road" starring Stewart Granger, as well as Eagle-Lion's "Take My Life".

* * *

"The Bachelor and the Bobby-Soxer" was the only new film to be held over here this past week. "It Happened on 5th Avenue" is now in its 5th week at the Snowdon.

* * *

Release dates for Canada of the new Universal - International featurette, "Snow Capers", filmed near Banff in the Canadian Rockies, are expected to be announced shortly. The film had its preview showing this past week at Universal's new Park Avenue studios, winning plaudits from New York ski writers and other experts.

The two reeler produced by Thomas Mead and directed by Arthur Cohen, presents a colorful panorama of winter sports and other activities at Banff. The film excells in shots of skating, tobogganing, ski jumping, and slalom races, most of which were taken on Mount Norquay's slopes, where the Canadian ski championships are to be held in February.

* * *

Owing to the fact this his first concert here was a sellout, Paul Robeson gave an extra performance on Thursday, January 15th.

« Capital Story »

By WILL McLAUGHLIN

MANAGER Frank Gallop of the Glebe Theatre reported that the attendance on Saturday morning (January 24th) was the largest in the history of the Odeon Movie Club, with many of the youngsters accompanied by their parents. Considerable credit for the large attendance and the successful showing of "Bush Christmas" is due to Tom Bowyer of Odeon's head office in Toronto. Tom spent several days here previous to the meeting, during which time he addressed home and school associations in the Glebe residential district, gave complete details of the Odeon Movie Club project and invited parents to be guests of the club on Saturday morning. He also called on the Journal, and rated a special newspaper story about "Bush. Christmas" and the activities of the juvenile movie club on the Odeon Circuit from coast to coast.

Produced especially for juveniles by the J. Arthur Rank Organization, "Bush Christmas", the full-length motion picture portrays the adventures of a group of Australian farm children in tracking down a trio of horse thieves through wild bush country.

* * *

Modern times in aircraft, and in home and industrial design, are the subjects of two issues of the new J. Arthur Rank monthly series, "This Modern Age". Gord. Beavis, manager of the Centre Theatre, where the Rank monthly is shown, held a private screening of the two films for members of the local press.

* * *

Kenny Smith, one-time manager of the Imperial and Regent Theatres for Famous Players, who spent the war years in the Civil Service, has returned to local show business. Ken is now managing the Rialto Theatre, an independent neighborhood house located on Bank Street, just south of the Imperial, which is now operated by 20th Century Theatres.

* * *

Sam Hebscher, manager of the Nola, a small-seated theatre situated 'way out West on Wellington Street, has been assigned to Hamilton as manager of the circuit's Savoy Theatre.

* * *

Irving Herman, International Films exploiteer, has been in Ottawa, arranged openings for three of his company's leading films. "Red Stallion" opened at the Capitol and "Repeat Performance" moved into the Regent. "T-Men", the story of the exploits of U.S. Treasury agents had its Canadian premiere at the Dual Elgin on February 5th, at which many leading government and R.C.M.P. officials were in attendance.

Photographed at Ottawa Civic Hospital by Dr. W. P. E. Paterson, an appendix removal was demonstrated in a color film entitled "Inside Information" at a meeting of the Ottawa Scientific Group in the lecture room of the Victoria Museum. One of a series of scientific films made by non-professional photographers, the picture was designed primarily for the instruction of nurses-in-training.

* * *

John Kurk and Frank Gallop, president and secretary-treasurer, respectively, of the Ontario Motion Picture Theatres Association (Ottawa and district branch), have lined up a list of prominent guest speakers for the club luncheons during 1948. Commissioner Ross McLean of the National Film Board addressed the association during the first meeting of the new season and was given an enthusiastic reception by members in attendance.

* * *

Ottawa admirers of Barbara Ann Scott, who successfully defended her European figure skating crown and is now pointing to the Olympic honors, are already preparing to give the lovely young ice skating Queen a huge welcome on her return to her home town.

* * *

Miss Eleanor Barteaux, information director of the National Film Society of Canada, was guest speaker at the annual meeting of the Irish Historical Society held in the Chateau Laurier. Miss Barteaux gave an insight into little known aspects on the life of Anna Brownell Murphy, the Irish authoress whose husband, Robert Jameson, was attorney-general of the province of Upper Canada in 1833.

* * *

Chief source of opposition at the moment for the cinema theatre is the appearance here of The Ice Cycles of 1948. Latest edition of the big ice revue, which features Ottawa-born comedian Arthur Nelles and has several local girls in the chorus line, is playing nightly to large audiences at Tommy Gorman's Auditorium.

* * *

It was "blue Monday" for three of the capital's four first-run theatres on January 26th. Off their usual opening days for some time through "hold-over" engagements, the Capitol, Regent and Centre started with new shows, day and date, thus splitting first-nighters three ways for less than average opening attendances. The Dual Elgin, 20th Century Theatres' first-run show window, avoided the unusual Monday premiere conflict by holding over "Sleep, My Love" at the last minute for an extra three days.

Vancouver News

By JACK DROY

ABOUT 100 men and women attended the dinner in the Vancouver Hotel to celebrate the fourth birthday of Famous Players 25-Year Club on January 26th. Induction of nine new members marked the affair. Vancouver member inductees were Charlie Doctor, manager of the Capitol; Dave Borland, manager of the Dominion Theatre; W. P. Dewees, associate of Famous Players and Tommy Thomson, manager of the Grandview. Five 25-year employees from Edmonton were also inducted. Famous Players officials in attendance from Toronto were Rube Bolstad, vice-president; Larry Bearg, western division manager, and Jimmy Nairn, publicity director. Guests of honor were the Mayors of Vancouver, Victoria, and Nanaimo, Chief Justice Farris and their wives.

* * *

At the F-P 25-year dinner, three pioneer employees of the Capitol Theatre, whose combined years of service total 80, were honored by the circuit. They are Charlie Doctor, the manager, and two projectionists, Bert Pollock and Sammy Haige.

* * *

Glittering and exciting as a Hollywood premiere, complete with movie stars, was the Movie Ball and Frolic, sponsored by the Canadian Picture Pioneers, which took place February 3rd in Hotel Vancouver. The hotel's huge ballroom, banquet room and lounge were taken over for the affair which was the first of its kind held here. All proceeds were in aid of the CPP Benevolent Fund. Susan Fletcher of the CBC "Flicks and Flashes" movie program, was mistress of ceremonies, directing novelty acts from various Vancouver cabarets that kept the festivities at a giddy height in between dances. The Harmony Radio show, a 20-piece orchestra and guest stars, appeared gratis, having been donated by Kelly-Douglas products, sponsors of the radio show, to help in the good work of the CPP Benevolent Fund.

* * *

Business since the New Year in British Columbia theatres has been splendid and almost up to the boom days. A mild winter and lack of outdoor sports was a help. Exhibitors are hoping it will stay this way for the rest of the winter season to make up for the lean months.

* * *

Westerns, once a surefire draw at the box office in these parts, are losing favor, particularly in the larger cities. One time favorites Roy Rogers and Gene Autry are not the attractions as in the past few years. Interest in musicals also show a falling off outside of the ace attractions, a recent check shows. The Oaters are still doing well in the smaller spots of the province, small town exhibitors said.

New faces among the Capitol Theatre staff are Joyce Thome, formerly with Odeon; Barbara Shearer and Sheila Green. Turnover in theatre staffs is still very high.

* * *

Doug Calladine of the Rex Theatre was elected president of the Projectionists local 348, IATSE, succeeding Bert Pollock who resigned. Ted Foley of the Circle was elected as recording secretary replacing Calladine.

* * *

Frank Doye of the State Theatre, Vancouver, is the father of a new baby boy named Spencer Marke. This is number two for the Doye family, both boys.

At a recent meeting of the Odeon Managers Association of B.C., the following executive was elected for 1948. President, Al Goodwin, Olympia Theatre; vice-president, Gerry Sutherland, Park Theatre; secretary-treasurer, Jim Adams, Circle Theatre; all are from Vancouver. Plans for future activities were discussed, among which will be a Monte Carlo nite to be held in the near future at one of the local theatres of the circuit.

* * *

Vancouver visitors to film row were Myron McLeod, Patricia, Theatre, Powell River; Sheila Bejay of the Rio, Victoria; Steve Thorn, and Harold Warren who controls theatres in the Alberni district of Vancouver Island.

Trans-Canada Showing

Use This Information As Your Guide On Release Dates

TORONTO

CAPITOL-VICTORIA
"Storm In A Teacup" (Card'l), with Vivien Leigh and Rex Harrison. Also "Roses Are Red" (Fox), with Don Castle and Peggy Knudsen.

EGLINTON-TIVOLI
2nd week. "While The Sun Shines" (Int'l), with Ronald Howard and Barbara White.

FAIRLAWN
"The Upturned Glass" (E-L), with James Mason and Rosamund John.

IMPERIAL
"My Wild Irish Rose" (W-B), Technicolor, with Dennis Morgan, Andrea King and Alan Hale.

LOEW'S
"Good News" (M-G-M), Technicolor, with June Allyson and Peter Lawford.

SHEA'S
2nd week. "Daisy Kenyon" (Fox), with Joan Crawford, Dana Andrews and Henry Fonda.

UPTOWN
"The Exile" (U-I), with Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., Maria Montez and Paule Croset.

MONTREAL

CAPITOL
"Kiss Of Death" (Fox), with Victor Mature, Brian Donlevy and Coleen Gray.

IMPERIAL
"Wings Of The Morning" (Card'l), Technicolor, with Annabella and Henry Fonda. Also "Hat Box Mystery" (Card'l), with Tom Neal and Pamella Blake.

LOEW'S
2nd week. "The Bachelor And The Bobby-Soxer" (R-K-O), with Cary Grant, Myrna Loy and Shirley Temple.

PALACE
"Whispering City" (E-L), with Helmut Dantine, Mary Anderson and Paul Lukas.

PRINCESS
"Merton Of The Movies" (M-G-M), with Red Skelton and Virginia O'Brien. Also "Pacific Adventure" (Col.), with Ron Randell and Muriel Steinbeck.

SNOWDON
5th week. "It Happened On Fifth Avenue" (Mono.), with Don DeFore, Ann Harding and Gale Storm.

VAN HORNE
"Waterloo Road" (E-L), with John Mills and Stewart Granger. Also "Take My Life" (E-L), with Hugh Williams and Greta Gynt.

SAINT JOHN

CAPITOL
"Moss Rose" (Fox), with Peggy Cummins, Victor Mature and Ethel Barrymore.

STRAND
"The Magic Bow" (E-L), with Stewart Granger and Phyllis Calvert.

WINNIPEG

CAPITOL
2nd week. "Green Dolphin Street" (M-G-M), with Lana Turner and Van Heflin.

DOMINION
10th week. "Abie's Irish Rose" (U-A), with Michael Chekhov and Joanna Dru.

GARRICK
"Black Gold" (Mono.), Cinecolor, with Anthony Quinn and Katherine DeMille.

LYCEUM
"The Sea Hawk" (W-B re-issue), with Errol Flynn and Claude Rains. Also "The Sea Wolf" (W-B re-issue), with Edward G. Robinson and Ida Lupino.

METROPOLITAN
"The Swordsman" (Col.), Technicolor, with Larry Parks and Ellen Drew.

ODEON
"The Exile" (U-I), with Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., Maria Montez and Paule Croset.

RIALTO
"Lady, Let's Dance" (Mono.), with Belita and James Ellison. Also "Sunbonnet Sue" with Gale Storm and Phil Regan.

CALGARY

CAPITOL
"Road To Rio" (Para.), with Bob Hope, Bing Crosby and Dorothy Lamour.

GRAND
"Hungry Hill" (E-L), with Margaret Lockwood, Dennis Price and Cecil Parker.

PALACE
"The Connor Case" (NFB-Col.). Also "Pacific Adventure" (Col.), with Ron Randell and Muriel Steinbeck.

VANCOUVER

CAPITOL
"Desire Me" (M-G-M), with Greer Garson and Robert Mitchum.

HASTINGS
"The Prince Of Thieves" (Col.), Cinecolor, with Jon Hall and Patricia Morrison. Also "Frieda" (E-L), with David Farrar and Mai Zetterling.

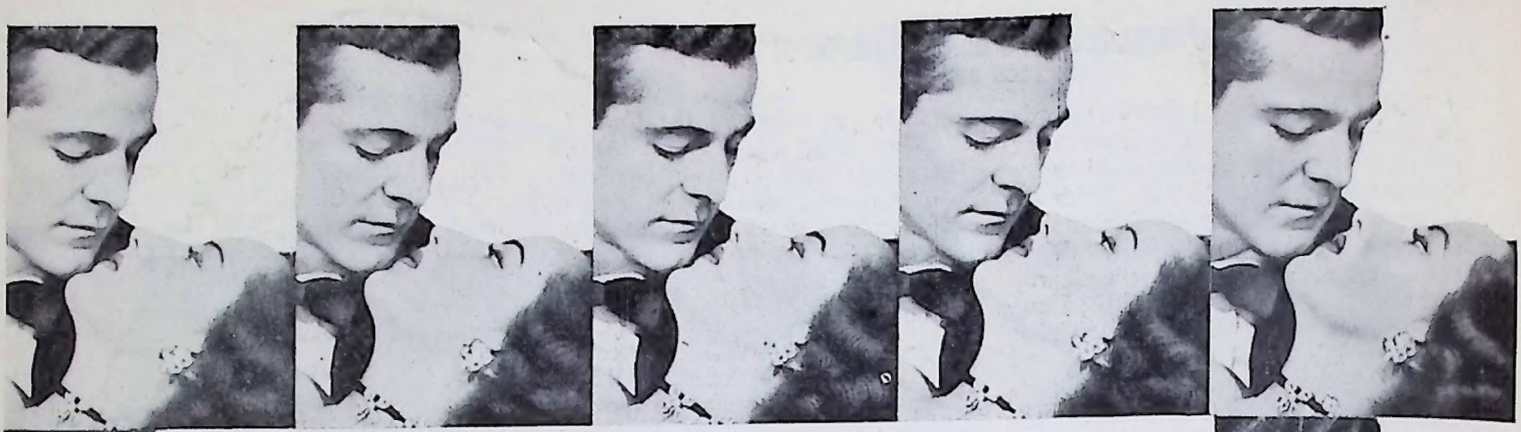
ORPHEUM
"Killer McCoy" (M-G-M), with Mickey Rooney, Brian Donlevy and Ann Blyth.

PARADISE
"New Wine" (Peerless), with Ilona Massey and Alan Curtis. Also "Sweet Genevieve" (Col.), with Jean Porter and Jimmy Lydon.

PARK - PLAZA
2nd week. "Sleep, My Love" (U-A), with Claudette Colbert, Robert Cummings and Don Ameche.

VOGUE
2nd week. "The Upturned Glass" (E-L), with James Mason and Pamela Kellino.

STRAND
2nd week. "The Great Waltz" (M-G-M), with Luise Rainer and Milixa Korjus.



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Again and again and again, they will thrill to the enchanting magic of one of the screen's most treasured entertainments!

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Conducted by EUGENE ORMANDY

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